THE BEST OF EARTH, WIND & FIRE VOL.II



THE BEST OF EARTH, WIND

COLUMBIA/LEGACY

CK 65736

Earth, Wind & Fire is a life force reminding us to feed our spiritual selves in our worldly good times. Led by maestro Maurice White, the Fire has enlightened our mind and body for more than a generation. A perfect companion to The Best Of Earth, Wind & Fire Vol. I, VOLUME II couples the gentle rhythms of "Devotion" with the kinetic energy of "Let's Groove," "Serpentine Fire" and "Boogie Wonderland." Like brilliant sunbeams, let these songs touch you with their warmth and light.



A Party For The New Century.



#### 1. TURN ON (THE BEAT BOX) (4:38)

(R. Lawrence/M. White/M. Page)
Produced by Maurice White and Rhett Lawrence
Columbia single 08107

Charted 11/19/88; Weeks: 10: Peak: #26 R&B

# 2. LET'S GROOVE (5:35)

(M. White/W. Vaughan)
Produced by Maurice White
Horn and String Arrangements by Bill Meyers
ARC single 02536
Charted 10/10/81; Weeks: 22; Peak: #1 R&B, #3 Pop

# From *Raisel*, Columbia 37548, Rel. 1981 3. AFTER THE LOVE HAS GONE (4:24)

(D. Foster/J. Graydon/B. Champlin) Produced by Maurice White Horn Arrangement by Jerry Hey String Arrangement by David Foster ARC single 11033 Charted 7/7/79; Weeks: 17; Peak: #2 R&B, #2 Pop From I Am, Columbia 35730, Rel. 1979

### 4. FANTASY (4:36)

(M. WhiteE. del Barrio/V. White)
Produced by Maurice White
Production Assistants: Verdine White and Larry Dunn
Vocal Collaborations: Maurice White and Philip Bailey
Horn and String Arrangements by Tom Tom 84
Columbia single 10688
Charted 2/25/78; Weeks: 13; Peak: #12 R&B, #32 Pop ...
From All / Ndl. Columbia 34905. Rel. 1977

#### 5. DEVOTION (4:48) (M. White/P. Bailey)

Rroduced by Joe Wissert and Maurice White Associate Producer: Charles Stepney Atranged by Earth, Wind & Fire and Charles Stepney Columbia single 10026 . Charted 9/21/74; Weeks: 11; Peak: #23 R&B, #33 Pop From Ozen Our Eves. Columbia 32712. Rel. 1974.

## 6. SERPENTINE FIRE (3:49)

(M. Whiter/ White/S. Burke)
Production Assistants: Verdine-White and Larry Dunn
Vocal Collaborations: Maurice White and Philip Bailey
Arranged by Tom Tom 84
Columbia single 10625
Charted 10/15/77; Weeks: 20; Peak: #1 R&B, #13 Pop
From Alf // Alf. Columbia 34905. Rel. 1977

#### 7. LOVE'S HOLIDAY (4:22) \*

(M. White/S. Scarborough)
Produced by Maurice White
Production Assistants: Verdine White and Larry Dunn
Vocal Collaborations: Maurice White and Philip Bailey
Arranged by Tom Tom 84
Guitar Solo by Johnny Graham
From All 'N.All. Columbia 34905, Rel. 1977

# 8. BOOGIE WONDERLAND (WITH THE EMOTIONS) (4:47)

Produced by Maurice White and Al McKay Horn and String Arrangements by Ben Wright ARC single 1039: Charted 5/19/79; Weeks: 13; Peak: #2 R&B, #6 Pop From I Am. Columbia 35730, Rel. 1979

#### 9. SATURDAY NITE (4:01)

(M. White/A. McKay/P. Bailey)
Produced by Maurice White and Charles Stepney
Arranged by Charles Stepney
Columbia single 10439
Charted 11/20/76; Weeks: 16; #4 R&B, #21 Pop
From Spirit, Columbia 34241, Rel. 1976

# 10. MIGHTY MIGHTY (3:02)

(M. White/V. White)
Produced by Joë Wissert and Maurice White
Associate Producer: Charles Stepney
Arranged by Earth, Wind & Fire and Charles Stepney
Columbia single 48007
Charted 3/2/74; Weeks: 17; Peak: #4 R&B, #29 Pop
From Open Our Eyes, Columbia 32712, Rel. 1974

#### BONUS TRACKS:

KEEP YOUR HEAD TO THE SKY (5:10)
 (M. White)
 Produced by Joa Wissert
 Arranged by Earth, Wind & Fire
 Columbia single 4595
 Charted 11/10/73; Weeks: 13; Peak: #23 R&B, #52 Pop
 From Head To The Sky, Columbia 32194, Rel. 1973

# 12. I'LL WRITE A SONG FOR YOU (5:23)

(A. McKay/P. Bailey/S. Beckmeier)
Produced by Maurice White
Production Assistants: Verdine White and Larry Dunn
Vocal Collaborations: Maurice White and Philip Bailey
Horn and String Arrangements by Eumir Deodato
From All 'N All, Columbia 34905, Rel. 1977







cutting records with Little Milton, Etta band's influence on a generation of Hip Hop and pop ular culture. This second volume of their Greatest Hits like a packed bus careening downtown-James and Howlin' Wolf as a session artists is a testament to belief. is an alchemy of Gospel, Jazz and the history of beat. drummer for Vee Jav and Chess with no brakes. Steady hit makers in the '70s, EW&F delivered opti-Long before the buzz of globalism turned up at record Records. There he witnessed the evomism to a decade divided by war, deceit, disco and company board meetings, Maurice White looked out The sleek cosmology and production lution of the rhythm and the blues in radical racial politics. Their legacy of tightly crafted, on the world with a universality that bridged musical values of EW&F set them apart from the horn charts and harmonies. Years on transcendent songs anticipated the African-identified and communal heritage. Maurice, Verdine and Freddy the jazz circuit with the Ramsey Lewis sea of Sly-inspired bands like the P-Funk consciousness that swept America in the '80s and the Trio fulfilled the making of a maestro.

Demonstrating the vision and spirituality that would stamp his music, Maurice moved to L.A. in 1970 and formed Earth, Wind & Fire, It was a pivotal time for Black music and consciousness in America, Miles Davis's Bitches Brew inspired its own experimental awareness in electric jazz. Southern soul music was out of time: the sweat-dripped bravado of James Brown and Wilson Pickett and their greasy confessionals were abandoned like a juke joint out of whiskey. Sly Stone was transforming Black music with a fusion of psychedelic rock, electrified Funk and churchified R&B,

shaking beats and bugles of a local

marching band inspired Maurice to

break a broom stick in two and pound

out time on floorboards and flour tins.

Maurice's sure-footed sense landed

him in Chicago, where he cut his teeth

The Eternal Dancer ushering in an era of message music,

full-blown Afros and a platform of racial and gender equality that stood four inches high. Funk was catching fire.

tie his shoes, Maurice was singing church solos and took With inner-city race riots, the Black Panthers shot down in to the road with the Rosehill Jubilettes to learn the art of singing praise. A drummer was born when the body-

mid-pounce and brothers laid out on Vietnamese soil, the music for the time was the rude blast of Funk. "We are people of the mighty," Maurice declared in "Mighty Mighty." The sound had become universal. It climbs rhythmic steps with a strut marked by brushes on the high hat and accented by a cry that's impossible to ignore. Black and beautiful, this early hit is energy riding on attitude and veering around sonic corners

> family. They shared the throttled guitar chords, syncopated horn blasts, abrupt rhythmic stresses and intergalactic world views which came to characterize the ensemble funk band. But EW&F distinguished itself with tight productions and meticulous pyrotechnic stage shows

> Bringing the gospel rite of uplifting music to a broken world is Maurice White's strength. "Keep Your Head To The Sky" represents the continuing tale of the lone pilgrim negotiating the ways of the grim world. EW&F gave depth to the pilgrim's progress in a contemporary world with a borrowed amalgamation of traditional religion, African symbolism and Buddhist self-determination. The added mysticism of

the sitar and a chorus from the heavens responding in high

that crossed over to the pop audiences.

Flip through the Little Black Book of American music and you'll find pages and pages of love songs to girls named Sherry and Rhonda and guys like Alfie and Bill. Earth, Wind & Fire wrote love songs to the universe. With a name as big as the cosmos and a band that stretched across the stage, EW&F introduced sophisticated Funk and African folk rhythms to American pop-

struggle to fill the spiritual vacuum of the '90s. For a

nation waiting to groove in the 21st century, The Best

of Earth, Wind & Fire Volume II arrives right on time.

HEADS TO THE SKY

by Virginia Prescott

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cal brick house founded on earthy soul, ethereal wind arrangements and flaming horns. Fused with the gospel sheen of Philip Bailey's voice and complex arrangements by the late Charles Stepney, the elements came together. With more than a dozen Grammy® Awards and several multi-platinum albums, EW&F was the most successful band to take psychedelic soul, electric jazz, and the gritty power of funk to the airwaves. Their commercial triumph was no compromise. To listen to these songs today and to hear the

Maurice White and his brothers-in-rhythm built a musi-

White were steeped in the Southern church music of Memphis. They grew up listening to the race radio stations that seeded B.B. King, Elvis Presley and the musicians who bloomed at Stax Records. Before he could



People of the mighty (I-r): Ralph Johnson, Andrew Woolfolk, Verdine and Maurice, Philip Bailey and Larry Dunn

harmony transport us beyond our earthly place.

That's the cornerstone of "Devotion," with Philip's vocal blessing the children, and Charles Stepney's muted horns arranged a pace behind the choir. This wasn't your grandma's ordinary devotion. The lasting appeal of EW&F's complex and elaborate productions works on many levelsfrom the ethereal to the dance floor. That's where it hit with The Emotions, three of Maurice's favorite sisters from the church, "Boogie Wonderland" pushed their gospel vocals to summon sin before sanctuary and invite heaven into the glittery world of disco. The effect is magical, building the expectation of "Saturday Nite," which shines its fleeting light down on Mr. Big Stuff as he checks out his bulge and full blowout in the mirror. As '70s disco grew cold, the warm power of dance records like "Let's Groove" conjured a rich world of wonder. And when the party ended in the '80s. Maurice flung open the shades to with the bittersweet "After The Love Has Gone."

beyond the party. Firmly rooted in the belief that we all have a secret place in our hearts, he turned to the soft Tropicalismo styling of Brazil to take us there. "Fantasy," one of EW&F's most fully realized songs, rides through the sky to land where voices ring out together as one. That is the spirit that unifies this collection. It's the super-charged sexual energy of "Serpentine Fire" ready to spring like a coiled snake. It's a study in the subtle power of Brazilian percussion carrying us from song to song. It's the seduction of "Love's Holiday" unfurling over a plunger-muted trumpet. It's the softness and simple truth of "I'll Write A

The beautiful thing about Maurice White is that he sees life

The sound and spirit of Earth, Wind & Fire materializes in the music we listen to today. Like the lessons of an old love, it materializes in another time and another conversation. Maurice White's gift to the universe is embodied in a legacv of songs and distilled in one lyric, "Sounds never dissipate, they only recreate in another place."

Virginia Prescott keeps her head to the sky at WNYC New York Public Radio. She attends the Church of The Soul on a regular basis.



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Verdine White: Vocals, Bass, Percussion Philip Bailey: Vocals, Congas, Percussion Larry Dunn: Piano, Organ, Synthesizer, Synthesizer Programming Ralph Johnson: Drums, Percussion Al McKay: Vocals, Guitars, Percussion Johnny Graham: Guitars, Percussion Andrew Woolfolk: Flute, Soprano and Tenor Saxophones, Fred White: Drums, Percussion Roland Bautista: Guitars

The Emotions are: Wanda Hutchinson, Sheila Whitt, Jeanette Hawes

The Phoenix Horns are:

Don Myrick, Saxophones; Louis Satterfield, Trombone; Michael Harris, Trumpet, Flugelhorn; Rahmlee Michael Davis, Trumpet, Flugelhorn: Elmar Brown, Trumpet

A special thanks from Maurice White to the musicians who've been there for us throughout the years:

Trumpets: Oscar Brashear, Bobby Bryant, Steve Madaio, Charles Findley, Gary Grant, Jerry Hey Trombones: George Bohanon, Garnett Brown, Benjamin Powell, Lew McCreary, Charles Loper, Bill Reichenbach, Maurice Spears Saxophones: Fred Jackson Jr., Herman Riley, Jerome Richardson French Horns: Barbara Korn, Richard Perissi, Sidney Muldrow, Marilyn Robinson, Arthur Maebe, David Duke Tuba: Tommy Johnson Piano, Keyboards, Synthesizers: Jerry Peters, Charles Stepney, Wayne Vaughan, Azar Lawrence, George del Barrio, Eddie del Barrio, Rick Kelly, Skip Scarborough,

David Foster, Billy Myers, Maxine Lewis, Steven Porcaro Guitars: Marlo Henderson, Steve Lukather, Beloyd Taylor Background Vocals: Beloyd Taylor Percussion: Harvey Mason, (Columbia/Legacy C3K 65410), a retrospective on 3 CDs Paulinho da Costa Tabla Drums: Zakir Hussein Concert Masters: supervised by Maurice White. Janice Gower, Harris Goldman, Charles Veal Violins: Ken Yerke Harris Goldman, Carl La Magne, Winterton Garvey, Joy Lyle, Asa What are you going to listen to next? Drori, Sandy Seemore, Haim Shtrum, Ronald Clark, Marcy Dicterow, Pavel Farkas, Henry Ferber, Joseph Goodman, Jack CK/CT 65779 Gootkin, William Henderson, Cynthia Kovaks, Gina Kronstadt, CK/CT 64832 Joseph Livoti, Jerome Reisler, Sheldon Sanov, Anton Sen, Ilkka Talvi, Judith Talvi, Rosmen Torfeh, Jerome Webster, Pamela Gates, Henry Roth, Sherman Bryana, Leena Sherman Violas: Rollice Dale, David Campbell, Marilyn Baker, Paul Polivnick, Lynn Subotnick, James Dunham, Denyse Buffum, Barbara Thomason, Z3K 65547 Virginia Majewski, James Ross, Linda Lipsett, Laurie Woods Cellos: Dennis Karmazyn, Harry Shultz, Ronald Cooper, Marie Fera, Jacqueline Lustgarten, Miguel Martinez, Daniel Smith, Kevin Torfeh, Larry Corbett, Delores Bing, Jan Kelley, John Walz Harp: Dorothy Jean Ashby Timpani: Richard Lepore Studios: The Burbank Studios, Clover Recorders, Complex

Sound Recorders, Oceanway Recording Studio, Westlake Audio, Los Angeles: Caribou Ranch, Nederland, Colorado Engineering: Robert Appere, Mick Guzauski, George Massenburg, Tom Perry, Robert Spano, Steve Crimmel, Dean Rod, Richard

Studios, Davlen Sound Studio, Wally Heider Studio 3, Hollywood

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MFSB Love Is The Message: The Best Of MFSB

The Emotions Best Of My Love: The Best Of The Emotions

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